

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION**

Early Intervention Committee

LOCATION

**Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference**

Meeting Date

**Wednesday, February 26, 2014
10:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

Karli Lopez - Chair
Amy Simpson
Mandy Cleveland

Community Members:

Sue Armstrong
Wendy Barrett
Breanna Brian
Sam Jordan

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 a.m.
ROLL CALL

Excused Members

Laurie Thomas
Beth Kaplan

Welcome from the Chair

Christie Reinhardt called the meeting to order and a quorum was not established.

Announcements and Good News

There were no announcements or good news reported.

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Past Minutes

Approval of the Agenda

There was not a quorum to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes – 1/15/14

Approval of the January 15th, 2014 meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Correspondence

Christie Reinhardt reported that she received regrets from Janel Keplinger that she has stepped down from the Board of Education and will no longer sit on the Governor's Council's EIC. An appointee from the Board of Education to replace Janel will be determined in the near future.

Reports

Chair's Report

Karli Lopez expressed an interest in the Council's travel policies and the strategies the Council uses to select which conferences, trainings, or meetings they attend and how they select which Council members or staff will attend.

Partner Reports

EI/ILP

Amy Simpson reported that Laurie Thomas is the new Part C coordinator for the State, and that the State has hired a technical assistant (TA) and they are recruiting for one more TA. In the interim, they have contracted with Jane Atuk, who is mainly focusing on the Medicaid billing for ILP services. Amy noted that she has been collaborating with Jane to lend an actual billing experience viewpoint.

AILPA

Christie Reinhardt reported that the AILPA meeting was held at the Association for the Education of Young Children Conference (AYEC) in January. Amy Simpson reported that the awards AILPA presented at the AYEC Conference were as follows:

Leadership Award	Victoria Kendall
Provider Award	Shannon Lloyd
Parent Advocacy Award	Angie Fraize
Community Award	Charlie Johanson-Adams
Advocacy Award	Amanda Faulkner

Amy Simpson reported that there were approximately 80 people in attendance for the award luncheon, which was by far their largest gathering. She noted that the conference was a great opportunity to hear what people are passionate about and what issues people would like to work on to advance early intervention.

EED

Sam Jordan reported on the activities the Department has been working on. The Department completed the work leading up to the submittal of the Annual Performance Report to OSEP. They held a stakeholders meeting in January that was very productive. They participated at the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC), and held a preconference where they had approximately 50 new special education directors and teachers in attendance.

Sam Jordan reported that the Department has been working on the intensive funding, and they have been continually working with the Daisy Center as a small state representative for OSEP to look at how states construct data systems. He stated that the smaller districts' compliance monitoring is complete and there are a few larger districts remaining that they will be looking at over the next two months.

EDHI

Mandy Cleveland reported that EDHI is currently looking at a new approach for describing the parent navigation piece to providers and families to better inform them about services EDHI provides. She reported that there are two new audiologists, one at ANMC and one in Fairbanks. Mandy stated that they have been working with their rural partners to try and get the rural Indian health beneficiaries to return to do the diagnostic testing when they fail their initial screenings.

FASD Work Group

Christie Reinhardt referred to a recent article published in the Alaska Dispatch about the challenges of raising a child with FASD noting that there has been a press focus on alcohol use within the state. There have been quite a few articles published, some in which birth parents have come forward and allowed themselves to be interviewed.

Christie Reinhardt reported that she attended the Mental Health Trust meeting where they had a data sharing session on alcohol use around the state. They also are looking at taking the Council's FASD work group and making it an official subcommittee under the Statewide FASD Partnership

so there is not a duplication of efforts. The Governor's Council has scheduled a teleconference with Teri Tibbett to outline how the groups could work together.

New Business

Discussion of APR Comments and Recommendations

Karli Lopez began the discussion by pointing out that early intervention has the same problem that many groups have, because there are many groups working on the same early intervention issues and working toward the same goals. She wondered if there is interest in a statewide meeting of early intervention groups to possibly reduce the duplication of efforts. Amy Simpson believes that the Governor's Council's EIC is the vehicle to draw all the groups together. Karli Lopez and Christie Reinhardt will examine what the federal regulations say about the membership of the Interagency Coordinating Council, which the Governor's Council and the EIC is for the state of Alaska, and look at filling the seats on the EIC with the appropriate representatives and have the right people at the table. They will also review the meeting time to ensure there are no conflicts with other groups.

Karli Lopez reported that the comments on the APR previously discussed by the committee were around parental rights and the unmet goals in the APR. The recommendations for parental rights included the development of a frequently asked questions document and a series of YouTube videos outlining specific portions of parental rights. The recommendation for meeting unmet goals was basically to assist the State ILP to develop strategies to meet goals. Sue Armstrong recommended stronger partnerships with agencies to engage families and teach the benefits of early intervention and strengthen the telehealth systems.

Christie Reinhardt stated that the review of the APR is also an opportunity to guide the goals for the committee's work in the upcoming year. She noted that at the March EIC meeting, the committee members will be asked to choose five goals that will guide the committee's work, and she encouraged the committee members to think about what issues they would like the committee to work on.

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

Christie Reinhardt stated that she will be attending the State Board of Education meeting in Juneau at the beginning of March.

Sue Armstrong reported that Alaska Association of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Conference is scheduled for April 7th – 8th, 2014. She suggested registering early as this conference fills up quickly.

Amy Simpson reported that the Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center's Telemedicine Conference will be held in mid-March.

Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Early Intervention Committee is scheduled for March 12th, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Good of the Order and Adjournment

Karli Lopez mentioned that there is a parent navigator position open at Stone Soup Group if committee members know of someone who might be interested.

Karli Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.